



# C I A C

## Asthma Coalition Interim Update

October 1, 2004



### OUR COALITION IN ACTION

August 2-6: **Camp Super Breathers** 32 asthmatic children attended this weeklong camp organized by the American Lung Association and St. Alphonsus. The Sawtooth Methodist camp, 35 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho was the location for this fun filled camp geared for ages 8-13. There were no asthma-related emergencies and the kids really enjoyed the crafts, games and learning opportunities. Dr. Michael Keiley, Boise Valley Asthma and Allergy Clinic of Idaho, and Dr. Mark Mering, Terry Reilly Health Services, were the physicians volunteering.

September 18: **Idaho Alpha-1 Community OUTREACH** CDH had asthma and radon educational items available at this conference. Eighty percent of individuals with an alpha-1 deficiency have an asthma component to their disease. The World Health Organization recommends that all individuals with COPD as well as adults and adolescents with Asthma be screened for the Alpha-1 Antitrypsin disorder. Alpha-1 can be detected by a simple blood test. Please contact Diane Angel at [dmangell@att.net](mailto:dmangell@att.net) for more information.

**The Asthma Educator Institute** was held in Boise on August 11-13. After completing the course, attendees were eligible to schedule an exam allowing them to become certified asthma educators upon passing. Several members in our coalition have taken the exam and are awaiting results or are in the process of scheduling time to take the exam. Please congratulate Michele Andrew and George Pletcher, Central Idaho Asthma Coalition members, and Tom Foster, Canyon County Asthma Coalition, for passing and becoming certified asthma educators. Congratulations!!!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9 **Asthma Walk 2004**

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m., October 9, 2004

**WHERE:** Start/Finish line will be on the north side of the fountain at Ann Morrison Park. The 5K (3.1 miles) route will follow the Boise River Greenbelt through the park, under the 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Capitol Blvd. bridges, over the Friendship Bridge at BSU, then back along the Greenbelt on the Julia Davis Park side to Ann Morrison Park.

**WHY:** The American Lung Association is "Blowing the Whistle on Asthma" because more than 140,000 Idahoans have asthma and more than 10.5 million Americans have had an asthma attack in the past year.

Walkers in the American Lung Association's Asthma Walk are supporting the Association's research and education efforts to help people control their asthma and

to find the cause and a cure for this debilitating respiratory ailment. The American Lung Association has been fighting lung disease for nearly 100 years. With the generous support of the public and the help of volunteers, we have seen many advances against lung disease. However, our work is not finished. As we look forward to our second century, we will continue to strive to make breathing easier for everyone through programs of education, community service, advocacy, and research. For more information about the Asthma Walk, or to register, log onto [www.lungwalk.org](http://www.lungwalk.org).

November 16: **Coalition Meeting.** The next Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17 in the Syringa Room at Central District Health from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., a light lunch will be served as usual.

#### New Coalition Members Wanted:

**If you know of any person(s) who would like to join our coalition to promote asthma awareness and education in our community, please have them contact Barbara Gilbert (208) 327-8547.**

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY:

**Open Airways Training:** The American Lung Association's Open Airways program is taught in grade schools in the United States. The program focuses on teaching children how to control their asthma symptoms, recognize triggers, take their medicines, and communicate effectively with their peers and teachers. School nurses, volunteers from the community, or interested parents, can teach the Open Airways program once training has been completed. Please contact Kera Yost at 336-2373 if you are interested in attending a training session.

### IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE:

The American Lung Association is starting the preliminary planning for the **Fourth Annual High Desert Pulmonary Conference**, which will be held in the Anderson Center next spring.

### ASTHMA EDUCATION:

Please contact Nancy Rush at 327-8546 with ideas for future asthma awareness events that you would like the coalition to pursue.

### INTHE LEGISLATURE:

- Clean Indoor Air - will there be challenges to the new law?